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A previously unidentified museum specimen of Plain-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne vielliardi* (Caprimulgidae)

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The Plain-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne vielliardi* is endemic to the rio São Francisco Valley in north-eastern Brazil and is probably the least known of all Neotropical nightjars (Cleere 1998, 1999, Holyoak 2001). It is also the most recent caprimulgid discovery from South America, two specimens, an adult male holotype and a juvenile male paratype, having been collected near Manga, Bahia in October 1987 and described within the genus *Chordeiles* seven years later (Lencioni-Neto 1994).

The species was next found near Januária, near Mocambinho and near Pirapora in northern Minas Gerais and studied in the field, although no new specimens were collected (Whitney *et al.* 2003). These studies also led to its generic reassignment from *Chordeiles* to *Nyctiprogne*, comments on the whereabouts of the two types and documented the existence of a third, hitherto unidentified museum specimen that was collected near Mocambinho, Minas Gerais in April 1994. The holotype was confirmed as being deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP), the paratype was reported as not being held in a public institution and the Mocambinho specimen was recorded from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). No further localities or specimens are currently known for this taxon.

During an extensive examination of the Caprimulgidae material held in the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH), I located a specimen from the rio São Francisco that matched the description of *Nyctiprogne vielliardi*.

The bird, an adult male (AMNH 241910) and labelled only as *Nyctiprogne*, was collected at Barra, Bahia, 430 m, by E. Kaempfer (field no. 5028) on 21 April 1926. I noted that it was extremely similar to *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* but lacked the white median tail-band of that species, although it had faint, vestigial white markings, below the uppertail-coverts on the inner webs of the four inner tail feathers (R1–R4). It also had a small buffish spot on either side of the lower throat. The biometrics were flattened wing 129 mm, tail length 86 mm and bill to skull 9.4 mm.

This newly identified specimen of *Nyctiprogne vielliardi* represents only the fourth known for this species and is the only one held outside of Brazil. It is also the oldest of the four and comes from a new locality along the rio São Francisco. Barra is situated at the mouth of the rio Grande (Paynter & Traylor 1991) and is approximately 160 km south of the type locality at Manga and 675 km north of Pirapora, which currently represent the northern and southernmost limits of this species' range.

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